

2019
SNAPSHOT

STATE OF HISPANICS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

SC Commission
for Minority Affairs



CONTENTS

Executive Summary 2

About the Commission...... 6

Hispanic Advisory Committee 8

Program History 9

Hispanics in SC 10

Hispanic Family 12

Education 14

Business...... 16

Economy..... 18

Military 20

Health 22

Mental Health 24

State Government...... 26

Sources...... 28

Notes 30

Prepared by SC Commission for Minority Affairs

Dr. Delores Dacosta, Executive Director

AUTHORS

Ms. Lee Serralta McElveen

Dr. Coddy Carter

CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR

Mr. Benjamin Washington

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs is a government agency designated to be the single point of contact for information on minorities in the state. Though originally formed in 1993 to serve the needs of African Americans, the agency expanded its services to the Hispanic/Latino population at the behest of South Carolina's Hispanic leaders.

One function of being a single point of contact for information on minorities in South Carolina is serving as a clearinghouse for information regarding minorities. This requires the SC Commission for Minority Affairs to tailor information from primary data collection agencies to the state's minority populations. This function also allows the agency to serve as a catalyst in identifying and examining emerging issues by providing constructive solutions to support policy that will gradually alleviate

socioeconomic deprivation of ethnic minority communities.

The Hispanic Affairs Initiative of the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs specializes in studying the causes and challenges faced by South Carolina's Hispanic population. A major component of this program is the development of an advisory committee and its members who advise the commission on issues and trends affecting our communities. They are vital in assisting the commission as they provide information to agencies and members of the community about the many challenges that Hispanics face.

This report provides a snapshot of Hispanics in the State of South Carolina and a general overview of each topic area. These topics include population demographics, the importance of family in the Hispanic community, education, business growth, economic contribution,



military participation, health disparities, and state employee demographics. In order to provide you with a snapshot we have conducted research and obtained data from a variety of sources,

Key Findings

- Hispanics comprise 5.6% of South Carolina's population. The Hispanic population includes a variety of ethnic groups, of which Mexicans are the largest.
- Our Hispanic community is represented in every county across our state. Saluda

including Hispanic Advisory Committee members. It is our intent to provide a snapshot of information on a variety of topics that are significant to the Hispanic community.

- county has the highest percentage with 16%.
- South Carolina is also home to approximately 87,000 undocumented/unauthorized immigrants for whom Mexico represents the highest country of origin.

- The dynamics of the Hispanic family goes beyond just the nuclear family and extends to other family members and friends. In South Carolina the Hispanic family earns an average income of \$39,219. Of these households, it is noted that more Hispanic families show to be married and only about half of these families own their own home.
- Education is highly valued in the Hispanic culture. Hispanic students represent 9.5% of the student body (K-12). For SC counties, Greenville has the highest percentage of Hispanic students.
- Entrepreneurship and small business are at the heart of the Hispanic community. Between 2007 and 2012, Hispanic-owned business in South Carolina the largest increase among all minority groups in the state. This finding means that Hispanics contribute millions of dollars to the state economy annually.
- South Carolina is proud of all our men and women who serve in our United States Armed Forces. Hispanics represent our armed forces and are housed in military installations across our state. Hispanics represent 2.2% of the total veteran population in SC.
- Hispanics in South Carolina have many challenges accessing health care and mental health services. Many Hispanics are uninsured and do not have a medical home or health care provider. In addition, they are less likely to obtain mental health services compared to other minority groups. Language barriers to health care is a major concern as well.

Why is this report important?

Hispanic South Carolinians face a variety of challenges. This report highlights challenges by offering snapshots in a few key areas. First, its summary of the Hispanic population shows the overall percentage of the state comprised by Hispanic and counties where they are concentrated. Furthermore, it points to the issue of undocumented/unauthorized immigrants in the state. Though it does not dive deep into it, this problem is one that can arouse anxiety in Hispanics and their extended family. Second, the report's section on the Hispanic family exhibits the importance of family to the community and provides supporting statistics. Third, the section on education simultaneously provides demographics,

statistics on immigrant students, concentration of Hispanics in particular school districts, and dropout/graduation. Fourth, the business, economy, military, and state government demographic sections show the reader how Hispanics are contributing to both business innovation and the driving of the state economy. Finally, the health sections highlight the grim realities of Hispanic deprivation, which can range from the fact that foreign-born Hispanics are less likely to have health insurance to the language barriers that lead to health disparities. Overall, the report offers a mix of encouraging findings and things that require policy intervention and further study.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs is the state's government agency designated to be the single point of contact for information on minorities in our state. In 2004, the commission expanded its services to include Hispanic/Latino, Native American and Asian groups in addition to African Americans.

The Commission's statute and regulations provide that an advisory committee should be

established, for each program area, to advise the Executive Director and the Board of Commissioners regarding solutions to reduce disparities among our minority groups . To that end, the Commission has established advisory committees to represent the State's Native American, African American, and Hispanic/Latino populations.

Board of Commissioners

GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE

Chief Floyd W. Harris, Jr.

FIRST DISTRICT

CMA Board Chair

Mr. Kenneth Battle

SECOND DISTRICT

Dr. Kent T. Washington

THIRD DISTRICT

Dr. Lamont A. Flowers

FOURTH DISTRICT

Ms. Karen McGill

FIFTH DISTRICT

Dr. William B. James, Jr.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Reverend Eddie C. Guess

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Reverend Michelle Law-Gordon

AT-LARGE

Ms. Tammie Hall-Wilson



Staff

Dr. Delores Dacosta
Executive Director

Dr. Cuddy Carter
Research and Policy
Program Manager

Ms. Lee McElveen
Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Program Coordinator

Mr. George Dennis
African American Affairs
Program Coordinator

Ms. Marcy Hayden
Native American Affairs
Program Coordinator

Mr. Rogie Nelson
Small and Minority Business
Program Coordinator

Ms. Atieno Adongo
Immigration Program
Administrative Assistant

Ms. Shelby Ingalls
Research Analyst

Ms. Kristin McFadden
Research Analyst

*SC Commission
for Minority Affairs*



HISPANIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hispanic Advisory Committee was formed in 2004. Members serve a two-year term and, if they so desire, may extend their participation to a second term. The Hispanic Advisory Committee currently has 18 active members from

different backgrounds and regions from across our State. The committee provides insight and advice in finding the best solutions to help our community, organizations, and interested parties in accordance with the overall mission of the organization.

Committee Members

Ms. Jo Dell Pickens
Dr. José Rivera
Ms. Miriam Berrouet
Tanya Rodriguez-Hodges
Cecilia Rodriguez
Maquella Grant
Vanessa Mota
Mayte Velasco
Kerry Allen

Denise Coleman
Shirley Santillán
Ana Cossio
Julio Hernandez
Alma Puente-Ruiz, LMSW
Ms. Gigi Towers
Ms. Lillian Garcia
Ms. Nilsy Rapolo, MSW
Diana Saillant, MBA, CHI™

PROGRAM HISTORY

In the year 2000, the late Sandra Vergara Duarte, community leader from West Columbia and community liaison met with Governor Jim Hodges to discuss some of the challenges faced by Latinos in our state. As a result of her advocacy efforts and the work of many that became part of the Ad Hoc Committee, our state's mandate was changed to be inclusive of other groups. In 2001, the Hispanic Latino Ad Hoc Committee submitted a report, Findings from the Hispanic Latino Ad Hoc Committee, to Governor Hodges that reflected the issues and concerns.

As a result of these findings and the need to reach out to other minority communities, South Carolina lawmakers passed legislation making the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs the official state agency to represent the Hispanic/Latino population. The legislation

also ordered the creation of a Hispanic/Latino Advisory committee that would make recommendations to the Commission on issues regarding the needs of this population. The first Hispanic Advisory Committee officially convened in 2004. Its members included leaders of varying occupations and professional backgrounds from across the state. They shared their expertise to help find ways to better serve the Hispanic community statewide. Over the course of the 14 years, the Hispanic Affairs Initiative has studied a variety of issues and as a result, developed programs to help meet the needs of the Hispanic community. Since its inception, the Hispanic/Latino Affairs program has been providing research, technical assistance, and resources to state agencies, businesses, and non-profits.

HISPANICS IN SC

South Carolina is home to 258,000 Hispanics and is ranked number one among all states in Hispanic growth (according to the most recent US Census 2010). The numbers show an over 300% increase from the Census in 2000.

According to the US Census Bureau, the Hispanic/Latino population comprises 5.6% of the State's population.

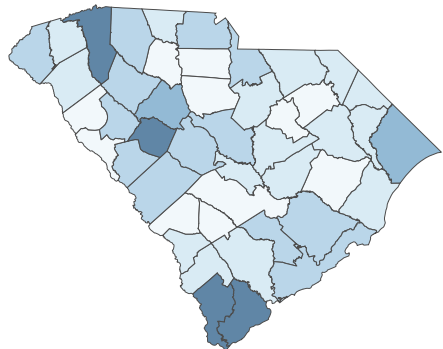
However, more accurate numbers reflect that we have three times the number of those stated in the last Census (Reported by SC Consortium for Immigration Studies). The terms Hispanic and Latino are used interchangeably throughout our state.

However, for purposes of this report we will be using the term Hispanic as utilized in the US Census:

Hispanic—Anyone who identifies themselves as Hispanic or of Hispanic heritage.

Darker areas on the map represent counties with the highest percentage of Hispanics. The top five counties with the highest percentages are:

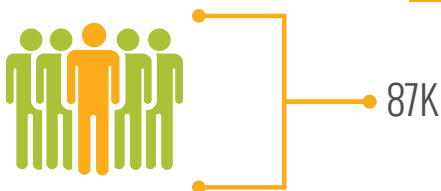
1. Saluda 16.0%
2. Jasper 13.2%
3. Beaufort 11.1%
4. Greenville 9.1%
5. Spartanburg 6.8%



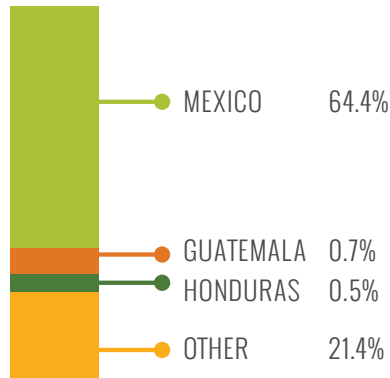


The United States has approximately 10.7 million undocumented/ unauthorized immigrants, a drop from 2007. Mexico has the highest number and percentage of all ethnic groups followed by El Salvador and Guatemala.

Total number of undocumented/ unauthorized immigrants in SC:



SC undocumented/ unauthorized population by country of origin:



HISPANIC FAMILY

The Hispanic family is central to all things. It goes beyond the typical family dynamics and structure in many families in the United States. *La familia* is considered to be not just the nuclear and immediate family such as mother, father, brother and sister but extends to grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents, friends and even close neighbors—each playing a vital role in

the family structure and dynamics. The term used to explain this dynamic is *familism*. It is also equally important to note that there are generational differences within the family composition and family patterns.

Strong cultural values bring families together such as religion, language, food, and entertainment.

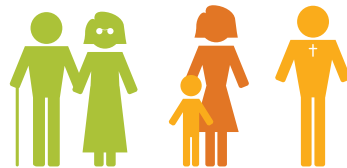
La familia:

Nuclear family



Plus

Extended family, friends, & community



Median Hispanic income in SC:

By household:

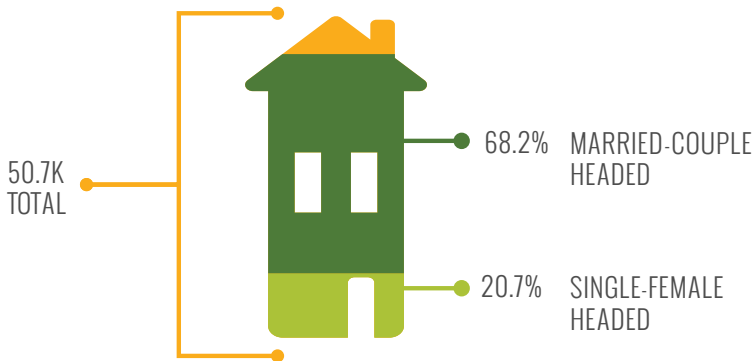
\$35,057

By family:

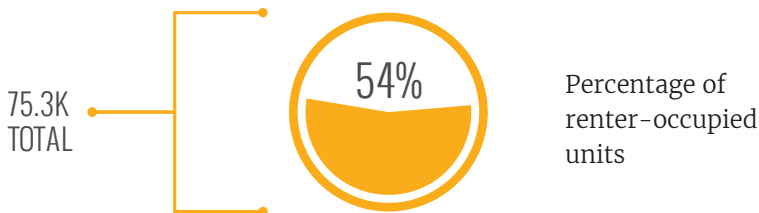
\$39,219



Hispanic family households in SC:



Hispanic housing units in SC:



EDUCATION

The South Carolina Department of Education reports that there are 784 teachers (male and female) of Hispanic heritage.

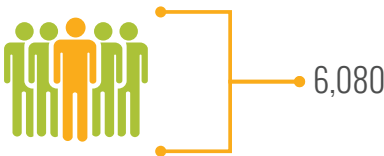
Percent of South Carolina students who are Hispanic:



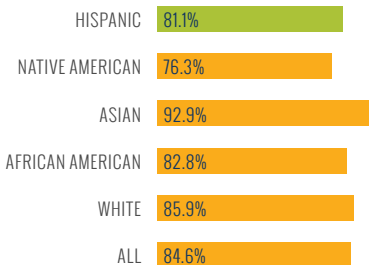
DACA: Differed Action for Childhood Arrivals

The USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) issues a report with the countries of the DACA recipients. Of these, the top five countries are Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru.

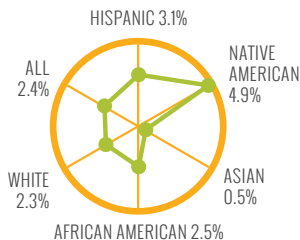
DACA recipients in South Carolina (69% participation):



High school graduation rates:



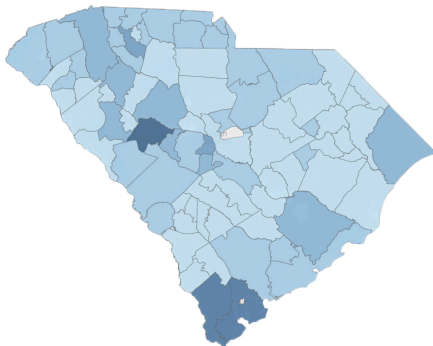
High school drop out rates:





Darker areas on the map represent school districts with the highest percentage of Hispanic students. The top five counties with the highest percentages of Hispanic enrollment are:

1. Greenville 12,024
2. Beaufort 5,950
3. Horry 5,485
4. Charleston 4,766
5. Richland 2,836



BUSINESS

Hispanic entrepreneurship is strong in South Carolina

Immigrants who are foreign born exhibit higher rates of entrepreneurship than Native born.

Hispanic-owned small businesses are the fastest growing group of minority

businesses in South Carolina. Percentages below show the change from 2007-2012 based on the Survey of Business Owners (SBO) South Carolina released in December 2015.

Percentage increase of small business ownership in SC (2007-2012):



DACA entrepreneurship

The New American Economy article titled “Spotlight on the DACA-Eligible Population Report” indicates that

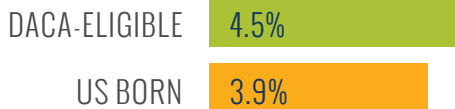
“Despite the rhetoric claiming undocumented youths are a drain on the U.S. economy,

90 percent of the DACA-eligible population 16 years old and older are employed.”

DACA-eligible entrepreneurs provide a significant boost to local economies across the country.



Percentage of entrepreneurs among workers 16–34 nationally:



DACA entrepreneurs' total income nationally (2015):

\$658.7M

ECONOMY

There is a misconception that Hispanics are a drain to our system and do not pay federal or state taxes. Data shows otherwise that in addition to contributing to our economy, they do not always collect or receive tax refunds due to their immigration status.

The impact of Hispanic households is felt in many parts of the country. In 2015, they held more than \$1B in spending power in a large majority of U.S. states.

“Hispanics come to the US with the desire to create business”

*— Nilsy Rapalo, Founder
Hispanic Business Association*

From the key groups of immigrants in our state, the Hispanic population was significantly higher than any other subgroup (Hispanic, Asian, Sub-Saharan African and Middle Eastern and North African) in income and second highest in taxes paid.

“As the definition of entrepreneurial spirit states: ‘[it] is a gift that inspires others to become the best they can be, from passion and leadership.’ And those characteristics are found within all Hispanic entrepreneurs, and that is why your SC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce strives to serve and support your business in any way possible.”

*— Evelyn Lugo
SC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*



Money & South Carolina Hispanics

Spending power

\$2.8B

Total income

\$1.6B

Taxes paid
(federal, state, & local)

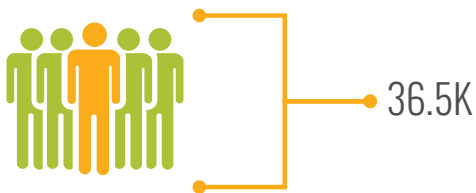
\$345.6M

MILITARY

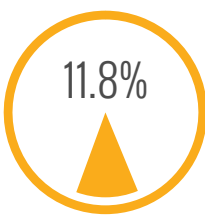
The State of South Carolina is home to eight military installations and is represented by diverse ethnic backgrounds, races and groups. We are proud of the men and women who are currently serving our country and those who are

now veterans and residing in our state. Our United States military provides individuals and their families the opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural experiences and gives them the exposure to work in a diverse and enriched environment.

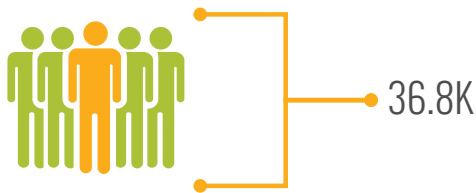
Hispanics on active duty nationally:



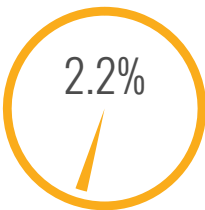
Total active duty soldiers in SC:



Total veterans in SC:



SC veterans of Hispanic origin:





Ft. Jackson soldiers enjoying Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations — 2018

South Carolina's military installations:

- NWS Charleston Navy Base in Goose Creek, SC
- Naval Hospital Charleston Navy Base North Charleston, SC
- Naval Hospital Beaufort Navy Base in Beaufort, SC
- MCRD Parris Island Marine Corps Base in Port Royal, SC
- MCAS Beaufort Marine Corps Base in Beaufort, SC
- Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, SC
- Joint Base Charleston Air Force North in Charleston, SC
- Fort Jackson Army Base in Columbia, SC

HEALTH

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the determinants of access to health care systems are health coverage, insurance affordability, provider linguistic and cultural competency, and quality of care.



Foreign-born Hispanics are almost five times more likely to be uninsured than U.S.-born Hispanics.

National percentages of Hispanic populations who utilize the emergency room:

NON-CITIZEN

13%

CITIZEN

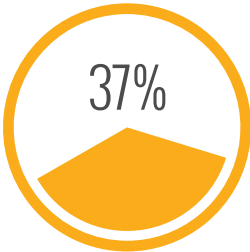
20%

"Health disparities which affect families in South Carolina continues to be the largest contributing factor in our population. Poor socioeconomic factors contribute to health disparities at every level of families. Having worked in migrant health and Hispanic health issues I've seen the impact at the local and state level."

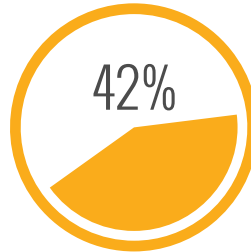
— Dr. Jose Rivera



Percent of SC Hispanics who are uninsured:



Percent of SC Hispanic women with no doctor or health care provider:



MENTAL HEALTH

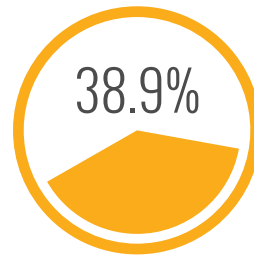
In a report completed by USC Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies, several factors were reported to affect the mental health and state of the Hispanic individual.

The focus group identified several factors that affect mental health, including fear of deportation, anxiety, depression and others.

Percent of US population receiving mental health services who are Hispanic:



Percent of SC Hispanics age 18 and over who rate their mental health as “Not Good”:



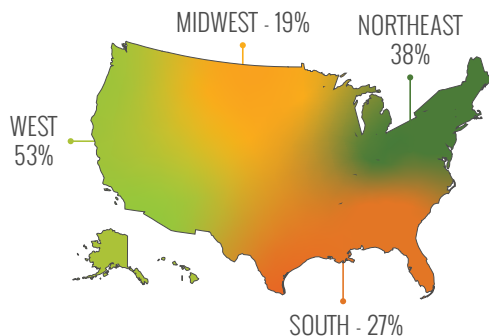
Bilingual treatment shortages

In SC there is a shortage of bilingual mental health providers to provide treatment services to the Hispanic community. Furthermore, there are no language services readily available particularly in rural areas.

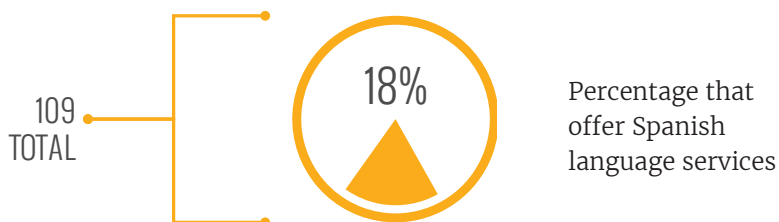
The Centers for Disease and Control indicated that nationally, the proportion of mental health treatment facilities that provided treatment services in languages other than English was 65%.



Regional percentages of facilities where staff provided treatment services in Spanish:



SC mental health facilities:

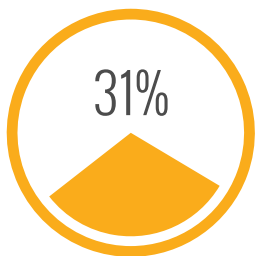


STATE GOVERNMENT

The SC Commission for Minority Affairs conducted a survey of 153 state government agencies with a 14% response rate. The purpose of this survey was to collect the following information:

1. Number of Hispanics in state government
2. Are they utilized to interpret or translate?
3. Are language access plans in place?
4. Are policies in place to address language barriers?
5. Are materials available in other languages?

Percent of SC agencies having employees of Hispanics heritage:



Percent of Hispanic employees who are not utilized for language access:

TO INTERPRET

67%

TO TRANSLATE

69%

“While South Carolina State Government has made great strides to reach our communities and to incorporate policies and language access plans, there are still barriers that prevent agencies from maximizing their program goals and outcomes.”

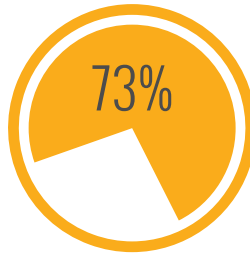
— Lee Serralta McElveen
SC State Government Employee



Percent of SC agencies that
DO NOT have a language
access plan:



Percent of SC agencies that
DO NOT have a policy to
address language barriers:



Percent of SC agencies that
DO NOT provide information
in other languages:



SOURCES

Kaiser Foundation (2016). *Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured*.

Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/about-kaiser-commission-on-medicaid-and-the-uninsured>.

Lorenzo-Blanco, E., Torres, M. E., Smithwick, J., & Wilton, A. (2016).

Mental Health Access and the Latino Communities of South Carolina: An Assessment of Needs, Existing Resources, and Current Challenges. University of South Carolina Internal Report.

Migration Policy Institute. (2016). *Profile of Unauthorized Population in South Carolina*. Retrieved from <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/SC>.

New American Economy. (2016, August). *Contributions of New Americans in South Carolina*. Retrieved from <http://research.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/nae-sc-report.pdf>.

South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs (2017). Unpublished Interview with Hispanic Advisory Committee Member.

South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs (2018). *State Agencies Survey on Hispanic Employees*.

South Carolina Department of Education (2017, June). *Professional Certified Staff 2016-2017*. Retrieved from <https://ed.sc.gov/data/reports/scde-educator-profession-reports/scde-educator-profession-reports/sc-teachers-by-race-and-gender/2016-17-sc-teachers-by-race-and-gender>.

South Carolina Department of Education (2017, October). *180-Day Active Student Headcount by Gender and Ethnicity 2016-2017*. Retrieved from <https://ed.sc.gov/data/other/student-counts/active-student-headcounts>.

South Carolina Department of Education (2018, July). *Report on Student Dropout Rates 2016-2017*. Retrieved from <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/discipline-related-reports/dropout-data/2016-17-state-dropout-report>.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2017). *National Mental Health Services Survey*. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nmhss-national-mental-health-services-survey>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2017). *South Carolina 2017 Mental Health Outcome Measures*. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/cbhsq-reports/SouthCarolina-2017.pdf>

Tobocman, S. (2016, July). *Guide to Immigrant Economic Development*. Retrieved from https://www.welcomingamerica.org/sites/default/files/WA_ImmigrantEconomicDevelopment_FINAL_web.pdf.

U.S. Census Bureau. *American Community Survey 2012–2016 5–Year Estimates – B25003I: Tenure (Hispanic or Latino Householder)*.

U.S. Census Bureau. *American Community Survey 2013–2017 5–Year Estimates – S2101: Veteran Status*.

U.S. Department of Defense (2015, September). DMDC Active Duty Military Personnel Master File. Retrieved from https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_reports.jsp.

U.S. Department of Defense (2016, September). DMDC Reserve Components Common Personnel Data System. Retrieved from https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_reports.jsp.

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (2017). *National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics South Carolina State Summary*. Retrieved from <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/stateSummaries.asp>.

U.S. Small Business Administration (2017). *South Carolina Small Business Profile, 2017*. Retrieved from https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/advocacy/South_Carolina_1.pdf.

